OCTOBER 15, 2023
BEEHIVE

"Laudate Deum"

Pope Francis delivers a message of despair

"Laudate Deum," Pope Francis' surprisingly brief but impassioned Apostolic Exhortation, delivered on October 4th of this year, is his most despairing yet. Words like "hopelessness," "desperation," "pessimism," "direct attack" and "alarm" are not words most would use to describe anything said by this pope. He is typically known for his encouragement and hope-filled messages. But "Laudate Deum" has an uncharacteristic tone and hits hard.

It is a devastating account of the present state of human action on climate change on the global level, and highlights how we are failing on almost every benchmark. Notably, Pope Francis takes direct aim at the "irresponsible lifestyle" of many in the United States, noting that "emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries".

That specific mention might shock Americans unaccustomed to hearing Pope Francis address anyone in this manner; his frustration is palpable. In 11 brief pages, he specifically targets the world's most powerful nations and leaders: "To the powerful, I can only repeat this question: 'What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?". "With the passage of time," the pope reflects in his introduction, "I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may

The pope is sharp and critical; he pulls no punches, instead delivering every blow he can muster to shake hu-

be nearing the breaking point".

mankind into a reckoning. He repeatedly reminds us we are already too late to respond adequately to the climate crisis. "Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years," he writes, drawing our attention toward "the increase in the global temperature of the oceans" as just one example of climate degradation

wrought by our human hands. "This is one of the many signs that the other creatures of this world have stopped being our companions along the way and have become instead our victims".

Pope Francis then proceeds to illustrate the gravity of the global climate crisis with concrete examples, scientific explanations and detailed statistics. "Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident," he savs, and those signs cannot be ignored. "Admittedly, not every concrete catastrophe ought to be attributed to global climate change. Nonetheless, it is verifiable that specific climate changes provoked by humanity are notably heightening the probability of extreme phenomena that are increasingly frequent and intense".

The pope underscores numerous extreme weather events as unmistakable signs of a planet

in distress. A 0.5 degree Celsius increase in global temperature has already resulted in significant rises in floods, rains, droughts, heatwaves, and snowfall. As we approach a 1.5 degrees Celsius increase, these events will become even more frequent and intense. Beyond a 2 degrees Celsius increase, "the icecaps of Greenland and a large part of Antarctica will melt completely, with immensely grave consequences for everyone," he warns. Coupled with the unprecedented

"Laudate Deum"

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rises in sea levels, this means that "probably in a few years many populations will have to move their homes". These factors will only exacerbate the already critical state of the global migration crisis.

"It is no longer possible to doubt the human — 'anthropic' — origin of climate change", Pope Francis asserts, pointing to data that show this truth. "In the last fifty years the temperature has risen at an unprecedented speed, greater than any time over the past two thousand years," he reports. "More than 42% of total net [carbon dioxide emissions] since the year 1850 were produced after 1990".

Pope Francis has been criticized for assuming the role of a climate scientist, a fact to which he sarcastically alludes: "The overwhelming majority of scientists specializing in the climate support this correlation, and only a very small percentage of them seek to deny the evidence," he says. "I feel obliged to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Catholic Church". It also does not escape the pope's mention that "the climate crisis is not exactly a matter that interests the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time".

Sections two through five of "Laudate Deum" see Pope Francis make interdisciplinary jumps into philosophy, the social and political sciences and international relations. It is not until the final section that he offers a more theological and spiritual take.

The second section expands on a concept the pope initially addressed in his influential 2015 encyclical on care for the environment, "Laudato Si". This concept, referred to as "the technocratic paradigm," is based on the flawed thinking that "reality, goodness and truth automatically flow from technological and economic power as such".

For the pope, the problem is not with the technological advances themselves, but with the human thinking that "everything that exists ceases to be a gift for which we should be thankful, esteem and cherish, and instead becomes a slave, prey to any whim of the human mind and its capacities". In this context the pope calls us "to rethink among other things the question of human power, its meaning and its limits," he says. "We have made impressive and awesome technological advances, and we have not realized that at the same time we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival".

The third, fourth and fifth sections offer strong critiques of the global superpowers and existing mechanisms for international cooperation. Pope Francis notes "the weakness of international politics" and assesses the efforts made by these entities in response to the climate crisis, specifically in attempts to fully implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which began in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and has brought representatives from over

190 countries to meetings around the world since.

At the heart of these sections is his criticism of multilateralism as it is currently understood among nations and their leaders. "It is not helpful to confuse multilateralism with a world authority concentrated in one person or in an elite with excessive power," he writes. ". . . It may not be helpful," he writes, "for us to support institutions in order to preserve the rights of the more powerful without caring for those of all".

The fourth section reviews the work of the U.N. climate conferences since Rio. The pope notes some significant failures and progresses along the way, naming the success of the Kyoto Protocol, where nations committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent, and the 2015 COP21 in Paris which committed to keep the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius. But, he writes, "the accords have been poorly implemented, due to lack of suitable mechanisms for oversight, periodic review and penalties in cases of noncompliance. The principles which they proclaimed still await an efficient and flexible means of practical implementation".

The first signs of hope in "Laudate Deum" come only in the fifth section, as Pope Francis looks to the future of international negotiations on climate change. "To say that there is nothing to hope for would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change", the pope writes. "Once and for all, let us put an end to the irresponsible derision that would present this issue as something purely ecological, 'green', romantic, frequently subject to ridicule by economic interests. Let us finally admit that it is a human and social problem on any number of levels". Finally, "one can only hope for binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored".

In his concluding paragraphs, the pope's change in tone rescues the reader from utter despair and offers a last-minute boost of hope. "We know that authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole", he writes, before making a final ardent plea:

"I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values. At the same time, I cannot deny that it is necessary to be honest and recognize that the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level.

Excerpt from "Pope Francis Delivers a Message of Despair" By Ricardo da Silva, S.J., an associate editor at America Media: October 6, 2023

All Chings Considered

As the prophet Isaiah wrote some 500 years before the time of Jesus: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint."

So are we seeing that happen with our St. Ambrose parishioners. This weekend's Detroit Free Press Marathon is one of the nation's preeminent races. **Rory Bolger** – the chairman of our Infrastructure Committee and the one who has been recently holding the "bench" behind our Casavant Organ most weekends – has a long and glorious relationship with the "Freep Marathon". He's run that Marathon 12 times and the Boston Marathon once.

Since turning 70, Rory has relegated himself to the "Freep Half Marathon" finishing 3rd in his age class, and recently 2nd in his group at the Disney World Half Marathon. He still gets out 6 days a week to run before breakfast – except for those Sundays, like this weekend – when he is in our loft, exercising on the organ pedals in service to our community.

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Isaiah also commends those who <u>walk</u> as well as run That brings me to the team sponsored by our St. Ambrose chapter of the St. Vincent de-Paul Society in the annual **Friends of the Poor Walk**® which took place on Belle Isle on September 25th.

In its 14th year, the Poor Walk/ Run is a national event that provides local Vincentian Conferences with an opportunity to raise funds and awareness to support neighbors in need.

This involves the physical involvement of more than 20,000 Vincentians across the country along with their friends. Each year, in this one event, over \$3.4 million is raised.

Now, here is the remarkable news - out of 200 Walk locations across Metro Detroit, our St. Ambrose Chapter of the SVdP Society team was FIRST in participation and revenue raised. And while the figures are still being assembled, it looks like our St. Ambrose Chapter took FIFTH place in the nation. What a great accomplishment for a rag-tag group, mostly of elders with long lists of infirmities! Their success comes from their passion to even the playing field for those who are attempting to run the race of life with a whole lot of debilitating factors already against them.

November 1st

November 1st is All Saints Day, which this year falls on a Wednesday.

It is a Holy Day of Obligation for U.S. Catholics. There will be a morning mass at 10:00 a.m. and an evening mass at 7:00 p.m. when we will remember in a special way those who have died and were buried from our parish in the past twelve months.



The truth is that anyone can walk or run with and for others in justice as envisioned by Isaiah the prophet. All that is needed is a modicum of good will and sacrifice.

Here's one easy way – and you may not even have to leave your home to do it. Consider participating in the St. Ambrose SVdP Bundle Weekend.

The resale shops of the St. Vincent de Paul Society here in metro Detroit account for about \$3,000,000 of revenue generated annually for assistance to the needs of the poor. Only one other source – that of direct contributions and grants in the amount of \$10,000,000 – exceeds that.

In total, the poor in South-eastern Michigan receive about \$13.5 million from SVdP every year. That covers a whole lot of practical things – the basics like rent, utilities, food, clothing, furnishings and medical care for the bottom rung of society with no other safety net.

Resale shops need stuff to sell. And the better stuff brings better prices. That is where you come in.

BUNDLE WEEKEND is the intake for the resale SVdP stores. While you can contribute at a SVdP store almost any day, this shortens the distance. All you have to do is get your surplus stuff to our parking lot. And if you can't manage that, we'll find a way of helping you.

There will be a truck here and a member of the SVdP Society here to help you unload your donations here the first Saturday and Sunday in November. That gives you time for some strategic sorting.

And please understand that the better the quality of your donations, the better the revenue generated for the poor.

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If you can honestly say that you have nothing to donate in terms of goods, perhaps you should consider a donation of food. Our Thanksgiving/Christmas Food drive begins in a couple of weeks. It's simple. Pick up an empty box from us and fill it with the suggested menu items designed to stock a pantry. Add extras as you will.

In all of these SVdP seasonal outreach efforts, it is an excellent time to involve children in your home, teaching them a lasting lesson of charity. What better way of demonstrating to your youngsters that you "believe what you say you do" than by having them follow your example.

Our SVdP Society always needs workers to fill the most basic of tasks. Even if you haven't considered being a "card carrying member" of the SVdP Society, offering your assistance even on a temporary basis will not be refused.

As the prophet Isaiah proposes: walk, or run, as you are able.

Faith Formation Station

Our eighth-grade candidates have begun their Confirmation journey. During this journey, students are given the opportunity to learn more about their Catholic faith and what

it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. By the end of the preparation process it is our goal that they have a good understanding of whom God is and how the Catholic Church helps us to know, love, and serve God. We designed our programming to meet three main objectives: (1) develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, (2) strengthen one's faith

and prayer life with the help of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and (3) become a more active, visible sign of Christ's love at home, school, and here at St. Ambrose parish through liturgical ministries, social activities. and special annual events. Confirmation is a defining

moment on a lifelong path to discipleship.

Last Saturday, October 7, 2023, twenty-one eighth-graders from our religious education program at St. Ambrose joined over 100 young people from St. Paul on the Lake, St. Clare of Montefalco and University of Detroit Jesuit to participate in a special Confirmation and Evangelical Charity Workshop.

The Workshop began with 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. Paul on the Lake with parents, students, and the worshipping community. After the liturgy, students and parents listened to presentations on finding the holy in sacramental preparation, on the meaning of

evangelical charity and of "family" in our Family of Parishes, as well as a brief outline of the 2-year sacramental program. Woven into the workshop portion of the morning, participants heard moving testimonials from Megan Dean, a recent high school graduate with a heart for serving others, and Tricia Kesteloot who inspires us to count all our blessings.

The Evangelical Charity Workshop, as designed by our Family of Parishes Director of Evangelical Charity Tricia Kesteloot, is meant to be part inspiration and part service – all the while building community among the participants. Evangelical Charity is more than community service; it is about intentionally loving people in God's name and being in direct

service to those in need. The emphasis is on living out the Gospel message given to us by Christ and building up the Body of Christ. When we serve others, we serve the Lord and

grow deeper in our relationship with Christ. Candidates were asked to think about the world around them and then think about what it could look like if we truly took time to extend charity to one another and build a Catholic community. Students were challenged to put down their phones long enough to smile at strangers, to reach out to make sure elderly neighbors or family members are okay, to use their gifts and talents to serve others. Our hope is that our candidates see service as not just a box they check off on their

Confirmation journey, but as a life-long commitment to building a better world.

For the service portion of the workshop, the students gathered in the cafeteria at St. Paul School and

made shower care kits for people experiencing homelessness. The young people eagerly packed over 400 recycled tennis cans with basic necessities (shampoo, soap, band-aids, q-tips, lotion, etc.) to be donated to Better Way Detroit, Catholic Charities of Michigan and the St. Vincent de Paul chapters associated with our Family of Parishes. Included in the shower care kits were personalized prayers and messages from the participants.

I was so humbled by all of the presentations last Saturday and moved by the joy with which these amazing young people gathered to serve. I look forward to walking this journey of faith with them and see-

ing and sharing what a beautiful mess they make in the days ahead! *Learn more about this mess-making by clicking on the video on the parish website.



- Grade 2 First Reconciliation Parent Meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Church.
- Grade 9 Confirmation Student Packets: Due November 1, 2023 in preparation for Confirmation Interviews in November.





The good news is that our 2023 CSA is within striking distance of meeting our *mandatory* Archdiocesan goal. That has happened in spite of a higher target, fewer parishioners and

the loss of a couple of major donors. Failure to meet the goal results in a loan against the parish, and we worked too hard and long paying back our loans in full to start accruing them again.

If you haven't contributed to the CSA this year, please do so now. We're about \$6,000 away from the target.

Make your gift directly to St. Ambrose online using a credit card, debit card or an ACH withdrawal (we then make sure it is paid to the AoD), click on the QR code on this page in the "CSA Box Scores" box.

Season of Giving

BUNDLE WEEKEND – St. Vincent de Paul members will be in the St. Ambrose parking lot to receive clothing and household goods donations before and after the weekend masses on Saturday November 4^{th} from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday November 5^{th} 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.. Clothing and household goods are real needs for members of our community. Unfortunately, we cannot accept furniture for this drive. Your generosity is appreciated.

THANKSGIVING FOOD – Soon, St. Vincent DePaul will distribute empty boxes following each mass for parishioners to fill with approximately \$35 worth of Kroger brand items for the Thanksgiving food program. The request for box donors will be extended to the masses on the following weekend, if needed. All boxes will need to be returned to the church soon after for distribution.

Gather Them Home

All Souls Day Masses will be celebrated in commemoration of our loved ones who have passed away. We will also be praying for the souls in purgatory. Please join us for Mass on Thursday, November 2^{nd} .

- **Holy Sepulchre** | 25800 W 10 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48033 9:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Allen Vigneron.
- Our Lady of Hope | 18303 Allen Rd, Brownstown Charter Twp, MI 48193 11:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby

St. Jude Relic Tour

The arm of Saint Jude Thaddeus, venerated in Rome from ancient times, will be on pilgrimage in the United States, making stops in 100 cities. One of the Church's most beloved saints, Saint Jude is the one to whom people turn when they are desperate and

have tried everything else. When things seem lost or unbearable — when they seem hopeless.

The last viewing of the Relic of St. Jude in the Archdiocese of Detroit will be on Friday, October 13 and Tuesday, October 17. Please see below the parishes that will host the relic for veneration and Masses:

Monday, October 16, 2023 -Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit (313) 865-6300 Tuesday, October 17, 2023 -

Church of the Divine Child in Dearborn (313) 277-3110

2 0 CSA2 3 Box Scores

Number of Families	800
Returns to date	158
Average Gift in '23	\$579
AoD Quota in '23	97,755
Property/Liability Insurance	\$57,600
Adjusted parish target \$	155,355
Received as of 10/11/23	\$91,497

- Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.
- The insurance premium listed roughly \$1,107 a week – is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the parish.
- Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.
- Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Priest in Solidum: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums Minister of Music: Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day – Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m. Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230 Tel: (313) 822-2814 Fax: (313) 822-9838 Email address: stambrose@comcast.net Religious Education: (313) 332-5633 Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631 Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814 Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, October 16

St. Hedwig, religious

Tuesday, October 17

St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr 8:30 a.m. – Mass – Sr. Irene Kerich, OP

Wednesday, October 18

St. Luke, evangelist

Thursday, October 19

Sts. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues & Companions, martyrs

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Stella & Paul Zawisa

Friday, October 20

St. Paul of the Cross, priest

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Fr. John Haney

Saturday, October 21

Weekday 28th week in Ordinary Time 4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, October 22

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 – Mass – For All People 11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 28th week in Ordinary Time

October 16

Rom 1: 1-7

Ps 98: 1-4 Lk 11: 29-32

October 17

Rom 1: 16-25 Ps 19: 2-5

Lk 11: 37-41 **October 18**

2 Tm 4: 10-17b Ps 86: 3-6, 9-10

Lk 11: 1-4

October 19

Rom 3: 21-30 Ps 130: 1-6

Lk 11: 47-54 **October 20**

Rom 4: 1-8 Ps 32: 1-2, 5, 11

Lk 12: 1-7

October 21

Rom 5: 12, 15b, 17-19, 20b=21 Ps 40: 7-10, 17 Lk 12: 13-21

LK 12, 13-2

October 22

Is 45: 1, 4-6 Ps 96: 1, 3-5, 7-10

1 Thes 1: 1-5b Mt 22: 15-21

28th Sunday in Ordinary 7ime October 14th & 15th

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iphone using the QR code.

Entrance: Table of Plenty #311

Psalm 23: My Sheperd Is the Lord #759

Preparatory: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling #684

Communion: You Have Called Us #649 **Recessional:** Soon and Very Soon #582



To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to You Tube at www.voutube.com/channel/UCbvmBGIQxUF6UgPct5xFq

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Jeanene George Maples, Angela Hansen, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Our Dead

Colleen Fay Gadzke (63) was buried from St. Ambrose on October 5th following an untimely death from ALS on September 24th.

Colleen was born in Bad Axe, Michigan to Burton and Marybelle (Scott) Dumaw – the last of five siblings: Verne, Dale, Linda and Susan. She attended Deckerville High School and went on to earn a BA in Sports Management from Lake Superior State University.

She kept an active life, particularly with 20+ mile bike-riding marathons – including one from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

She married her husband Robert at St. Malachy's in Sterling Heights, eventually settling in Harper Woods where they raised two children, Mitch and Stella. The entire family became involved in the life of St. Ambrose Parish, with Colleen serving as a Religious Education Catechist and a Eucharistic Minister, along with her husband, a lector, and children as altar servers.

The focus of Colleen's life gravitated toward youngsters. For a time she served as a bus-driver at Liggett Academy, a position which lead to her involvement with student athletics and Girl Scouting. That was interspersed with hours of baby sitting for nieces, nephews and hours of knitting for babies and baking for hungry kids who gravitated to her for support and love.



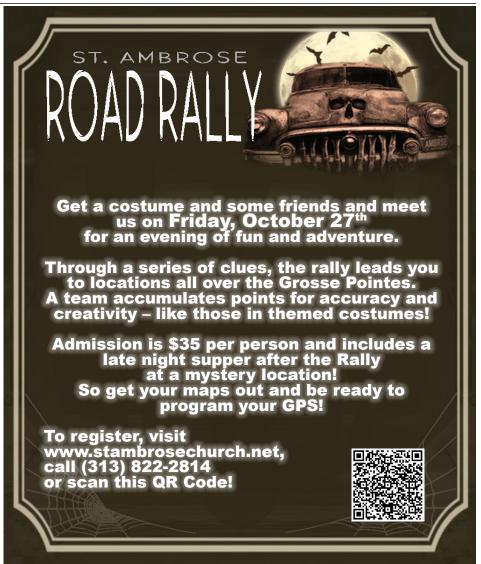
Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- ☐ I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- ☐ I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- ☐ I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- ☐ I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- ☐ I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- ☐ I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- ☐ I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- ☐ I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- ☐ I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.





Our next Motor City Makeover tour with John Gallagher will be held on November 4th from 10:00 to 2:30.

• Visit the RiverWalk extension across the Uniroyal site to the Belle Isle bridge. Maybe walk a little of it before getting back on the bus.• Get inside and backstage of the Hilber-

ry Gateway theater complex on Cass at Wayne State. • Close with a visit to the newly renovated Detroit's Historic Downtown Synagogue. Lunch along the way along with a variety of other interesting sights to see."

